

Maine Farmer

Augusta, December 23, 1871.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.
\$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if paid within
Three months of the date of subscription.

All payments made by subscribers will be credited on the yellow slips attached to their papers. The printed date in connection with the subscriber's name will show the time to which he has paid, and will continue, in all cases a valid receipt for money sent by him.

A subscriber desiring to change the post office address of his paper must send to the printer of the office to which he is sent, a notice of the change, so that the paper may be forwarded to the new address, and he will be able to comply with his request.

Collectors' Notices.
Mr. V. DARRING is now canvassing and collecting in Cumberland County.
Mr. C. A. ATHERTON is canvassing Franklin County.
Mr. E. B. BROWN, Jr., is canvassing Lincoln County during November and December.

Special Notice to Subscribers.
We renew the liberal offer made to our subscribers last year, which, we trust, they will take immediate advantage of.

All persons in arrears who will send us the amount now due, at the rate of one year and two dollars in addition, shall receive credit for all past indebtedness, and for a year's subscription in advance. This offer to stand open until the 1st of January, 1872. All payments made at this office, by mail, or to our authorized agents previous to that date, will be credited in accordance with the terms above stated.

Editors and Publishers Association.
The annual meeting of the Maine Editors and Publishers Association will be held in Augusta on Thursday, at 2 o'clock, P. M., January 15, 1872. The business of the Association is to be transacted. Editors and Publishers are requested to be present. Editors and Publishers in Maine who have not connected themselves with the Association are also earnestly invited to attend, and assist themselves to the best advantage.

A committee of brethren of the craft will be in waiting at the office of the MAINE FARMER, to assign all who come to places of honor.

JOHN A. HOBAN, President.
Augusta, Dec. 20, 1871.

MAINE PAPERS PLEASE COPY.
A Commission on Labor.

There is something very cheering in the earnest tone of the recent discussion in the House of Representatives on the subject of a commission to investigate the condition of the laboring classes. The full report of the bill is thus stated:

"A bill for the appointment by the President, with the advice of the Senate, of a commission of three persons, to be known as the Commission on Labor, to investigate the condition of the laboring classes of the United States, and to report to the President, and to the Senate, on or before the 1st day of January, 1872, a full and complete report of the results of their investigation, and of the measures which they deem it expedient to recommend to the President, and to the Senate, for the relief of the laboring classes of the United States, and for the improvement of their condition."

Though we have no sympathy with those labor-reformers, so numerous in these days, whose direct object appears to be to extort from the capitalist, by legislative enactment, ten hours' pay for eight hours' work, we cannot but see the wisdom of the bill for a commission to investigate the condition of the laboring classes. It appears to be a disproporionate share of the burden of labor, to make the lot of the poor as easy as that of the rich is perhaps neither possible nor desirable. Industry and frugality are commendable virtues, and must, in a healthy state of society, always find their due reward in the enjoyment of the good things they have accumulated. Any course of legislation that attempts to do this, is not only unwise, but it is also unjust, and that only. But if it is indeed true, as some affirm, that the tendency of all or any of our financial legislation, or legislation of any other kind, is to give the man who has already accumulated capital, an unfair or unnatural advantage over him who has not, there is a grievous wrong to be righted. And the first thing to be done is to obtain definite knowledge of the facts.

Mr. Hoar did not exaggerate the gravity of the situation when he said that there is a cry of discontent from all parts of the country, and the civilized world by the laboring classes. All over the land "labor-reform" parties are rising, and although their efforts have, it seems to us, been sadly misdirected, their very existence shows that there is a cause to be redressed—poor as it may seem, and ready with earnest words to second Mr. Hoar's bill; and that a regular and thorough investigation may soon either supply the labor-reformers with a better basis as well as a better purpose for their efforts than the wild notions now current with them, or show them that their efforts are baseless and futile.

Though the Commission is a novelty in national legislation, the path marked out for it is not entirely untrod. Some years since, David A. Wells, Special Commissioner of the revenue, reported that the tendency of the tariff and internal revenue acts was to make the rich richer and the poor poorer, and to point out the various ways in which the laboring classes were being oppressed. He held the office of Mr. Wells for several years, holding several judicial offices. In 1858 he was appointed by President Pierce Chief Justice of the District of Oregon, and he has lived there since. He entered the United States Senate in 1864 as a republican, and was of great service to his country, making him a member of the Joint High Commission, where he served with credit.

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The Theodore Thomas Concert at Granite Hall on Monday evening, was a rare musical event in our city. Notwithstanding the raging of a violent snow storm, the hall was completely filled with brilliant and appreciative audiences, whose enjoyment of the performance expressed in frequent and enthusiastic demonstrations of applause. The selection of pieces for the occasion, was for the most part entirely new to the audience, and the music, by such eminent composers as Beethoven, Liszt, Schubert, Wagner, Brahms, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and others, was of an exceptionally high order. The performance was, in every respect, a masterpiece of art, and the audience was thoroughly satisfied. The concert was a great success, and the audience was thoroughly satisfied.

The salmon eggs of Orono on the 18th inst., and shipped from Bucksport by steamer Kaskadum. Mr. Atkins has carried 21,750 of them to Norway in this State, where they will be hatched out by Crockett and Holmes, trout-breeders, and turned out spring into tributaries of the Androscoggin River. All the fertilized eggs have now reached a stage of development, which the pulsation of the heart and the movement of the blood in the veins can be seen, and the embryo fish is sensitive, wriggling when irritated. Out of the whole number packed, it is not anticipated that more than 2 or 3 per cent will fail by reason of non-fertilization.

Mr. H. L. Weaver gave a series of readings and recitations on Wednesday evening last at Moonlight Hall. The audience was not so large as it would have been had a more general notice been given, but the pleasure with which the readings were listened to by the few present was unmistakably manifested. Mr. Weaver is a lady of most estimable character, possessing rare qualifications for the vocation she has chosen, and we cannot doubt she will attain an enviable rank among the most distinguished public readers of the country. She gave an entertainment on Friday evening at the Tugus Military Asylum to a large and delighted audience, and another on Tuesday evening of this week at Pittsford.

The seed business, as conducted by Briggs & Brother, Rochester, N. Y., whose advertisement will be found in another column, is one of the largest in the United States. We are informed that over 12,000 dealers in different parts of the country and the English Republic sell their seed, and from 200 to 300 persons, according to the season, are employed in packing and putting up the flower and vegetable seeds, which they send by mail to all parts of the country. It takes six presses in constant use to print labels alone; upwards of \$400,000 worth of paper is used annually in the manufacture of bags for seeds, and the result of the investigation is a goodly and beautifully illustrated, well ready for delivery on the 1st of January next.

The Pullman train from Boston to Bangor, met with an accident near New Portland on "Monday morning last. The train was completely covered with snow from the storm of the previous day, and the train was drawn by two engines, to which was attached a snow plow. The baggage car, smoking car, and one passenger car were thrown from the track, but no serious damage was done to the train, and no one was injured. After a detention of several hours the cars were replaced upon the track and the train proceeded on its way. The arrival of the morning train from Bangor to this city was also delayed about an hour.

The marriage of Hon. Eugene T. Hale, Representative of the State, and Miss Mary H. Kimball, daughter of the late Senator Charles Kimball, was celebrated on Wednesday of this week. The correspondent of the Boston Journal says the wedding will be a private one without bridesmaids or groomsmen, followed by a reception from 8 to 10 o'clock, to which the friends of the families have been invited. We see the statement that Mr. Hale intends at the close of his term of office to remove to his residence in Maine and take up his residence in Michigan.

Mr. John Tanner of Sidney, brought in to our office last week a splendid ornithological specimen in the shape of a large Arctic Owl, captured by him in his den, where he found him taking a good fat nap. The bird measured five feet three inches from tip to tip of wings, and his feet were covered with long and fine white feathers. He was larger and altogether unlike our native owls.

A Washington correspondent of the Boston Journal says that Edward Fenn, Rep., for many years, a well known and highly esteemed citizen of Augusta, and who has been for the past two years an officer of the House of Representatives has recently been appointed Keeper of the Stationery of the United States Senate. This is a pleasant recognition of the services of a genial and worthy citizen of Maine.

Mr. J. G. Holcomb, is engaged in introducing into this city the use of Downer's Patent Mineral Spring Oil, which is now being extensively advertised for the purpose of securing a monopoly of the oil. The oil is said to be of great value in the treatment of rheumatism, and is said to be of great value in the treatment of rheumatism, and is said to be of great value in the treatment of rheumatism.

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We regret to learn that Prof. M. C. Miliken, the popular musical instructor of this city, on Saturday last accidentally sprained his knee so severely while engaged in tuning a piano, as to render him unable to perform for several weeks. He is now resting at his home, and is expected to be able to resume his duties in a few days.

The Lewiston Journal makes a very handsome appearance in its new dress, and the enterprising publishers are to be congratulated upon their success in making it not only a good looking paper, but also one of the best conducted of its class in the State.

We regret to learn that Mr. S. H. Norbury of this city, Master in the U. S. Navy, on his way home from the Pacific on the Iowa, was unfortunately killed in New York. The last accounts gave faint reason to hope for his recovery.

Mr. J. H. Gifford of Kendall's Mills, widely known as a successful business man, and a devoted citizen, died on Sunday night last, after a brief illness, of congestion of the lungs.

Editor's Table.
LIES AND LETTERS OF CATHERINE M. SANDWICH. Edited by Mary E. Dowry. New York: Harper & Bros., 1871. 12 mo. pp. 448. [With a view of the life and character of the authoress, and her stories, which the titles even, are strange sounds to readers of to-day, enjoyed a large circulation. Born in that famous Massachusetts town, so noted for having been a birth-place of many eminent persons, Stockbridge, in Berkshire, she afterwards moved to New York, and for many years resided in the literary circles of the city, where she published her best work. She published no less than twenty distinct stories, in sixteen volumes, and her correspondence with the eminent men and women of her day, was quite extensive. The volume under notice, issued three years after her death, which occurred in 1868, at the age of seventy-six, was edited by her own autobiographer, with copious extracts from her correspondence and journals, and edited by Mary E. Dowry. There are two portraits, one of her as a young girl, and the other as an old lady, and the very neat volume detailing her somewhat uneventful but singularly beautiful and benevolent life, is one that cannot fail to interest a large class of readers of female biography of the present day.

Received through Messrs. Bailey & Noyes, Portland, and for sale in this city by Horace North.

THE SALMON EGGS OF Orono on the 18th inst., and shipped from Bucksport by steamer Kaskadum. Mr. Atkins has carried 21,750 of them to Norway in this State, where they will be hatched out by Crockett and Holmes, trout-breeders, and turned out spring into tributaries of the Androscoggin River. All the fertilized eggs have now reached a stage of development, which the pulsation of the heart and the movement of the blood in the veins can be seen, and the embryo fish is sensitive, wriggling when irritated. Out of the whole number packed, it is not anticipated that more than 2 or 3 per cent will fail by reason of non-fertilization.

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Waits from the Pacific.
MERCED CO., CAL., Nov. 25, 1871.
To the Editor of the Maine Farmer.—Our long, tedious summer has passed away, and cool, invigorating breezes are substituted for the hot, sultry atmosphere that hung over the plains for the last six months. The heat was very intense, the thermometer averaging about 100 degrees, and occasionally reaching as high as 110. The air suffered very much from the extreme dryness of the air, which was so dull and hazy that vision could reach but a short distance. The ground beneath our feet, literally baked and cracked open. The hot wind swept over the plains continually, carrying clouds of dust high in the air for miles. The feed was entirely destroyed, excepting what was known as salt-grass, but that is little nourishment. Nearly all the stock was driven into the mountains, where they thrived in the valleys and canyons abounding in feed. On the west side of the valley no sign of grass or the least sign of vegetation was visible, where during a moist season it is difficult to walk through the "fescue," as the native grass is called. The situation was so discouraging to new comers, that many of them have returned to the east, where they are well employed by the railroads. The population is upwards of 10,000. All that we have seen speaks well for the future. It abounds in an air of cheerfulness and comfort, and is destined to continue the garden of California. Half an hour's ride down the bay on the eastern shore brings us to another "city of the plains." It takes its name from the great number of oaks among which it is situated. It commands a fine view of the bay and surrounding mountains. As a commercial center it is scarcely equalled by any point in the State. Being the terminus of the great Pacific Railroad, it necessarily has a large proportion of the overland traffic. This company own extensive property here in the shape of real estate, wharves and machine shops. The harbor—a creek flowing in from the Sierra at an early hour in the rain travels the bay, and is a great convenience to the city. A sudden change is perceptible, and comfort is enjoyed still another day. Every one who can leave the valley for the coast or the Nevada mountains. It has long been evident that something must be done to supply in part the deficiency of rain, and for that purpose

has been suggested a company of San Francisco capitalists. A canal is to be constructed from the upper Joaquin to the lower end of the valley, which will afford the means of irrigating thousands of acres of magnificent land that now presents so desolate a appearance. The whole proposed length is two hundred miles, which will be navigable the entire distance, as well as the lateral canals that intersect the contiguous country. By this means the surplus water of the mountains, abundant and continuous, and transportation at very low rates is insured. The land on the western side of the Joaquin river is well adapted to every description of culture. Not only wheat, but many other articles can be produced. Farmers will raise their own vegetables, and every ranch will contain an orchard and vineyard. The crops now raised will by this means be sold at a profit, and the cost of nominal cost of transportation. The cost of irrigation will be fixed at \$1.50 per acre, and transportation at one cent per mile. Suppose 1000 acres 100 miles distant produce 700 tons of wheat. At two cents per pound the crop would be worth \$28,000. The cost of irrigating it and carrying it to market would be \$1,800. Without the canal the crop is nearly sold at a loss, and the farmer would be a ruined man. The canal would be a great benefit to the country, and would be a great benefit to the country, and would be a great benefit to the country.

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Items of Maine News.

About 700 men are at work on the B. & M. extension. The work is rapidly progressing. Capt. James Clark and wife of Camden, celebrated their golden wedding last Wednesday evening.

Brinley, a Washington artist, has painted a fine portrait of the late Senator Fessenden, for a citizen of Portland.

Dr. Jeremiah Sittering of Newburg, dropped dead on Friday while sitting in his chair. He was seventy-six years old.

J. G. Graham has been appointed third Lieutenant in the Revenue service, and J. Demarest second Lieutenant; both of Maine.

About seven hundred men are now at work on the extension of the Boston & Maine Railroad from South Berwick to Portland.

Ralph W. Smith of Bangor, is following 115 turkeys to go to Dix's Island for a Christmas dinner for the quarymen.

Lewiston boasts that six babies have been added to the population of one street this week, and three more to another.

The schoolmaster of Bangor, that went ashore on Rocky Point, L. I., has been stripped of his rigging and her cargo of coal saved.

In Portland, on Friday evening last, Mr. Benjamin Smith, a well known citizen, nearly 80 years of age, died suddenly of heart disease while sitting in a blacksmith-shop.

The amount of cash and clothing donated by the people of Brunswick for the relief of the western soldiers, has been found to be \$14,000.

The Bridgton Savings Bank has deposits to the amount of \$70,000. It has just made a semi-annual dividend of three and a half per cent.

Mr. Matthew Clark, of Machias, who was badly injured at Lubec, last week, still lies in a feeble condition. It is thought, however, that he may recover.

The Bangor Whig says that a young Swede, named Bergrud, is attending one of the lectures at the Bangor Normal School, and is a very good student.

A cow on Cranberry Island, swallowed a fork, which had accidentally fallen into a pool of water, and the fork was found sticking into the poor thing's ribs.

Samuel Lucas of Canton, met with a serious accident some time since by the explosion of a keg of gunpowder, which he was using to clear a hole in a wall. He was badly injured, and his leg was broken.

George A. Walworth has been appointed Postmaster at East Winthrop, by Lyman White, deceased. A post-office has been established at Sebec, and Joseph A. Webster appointed Postmaster.

Items of General News.

The amount realized in New York on Wednesday last week, by the sale of paintings contributed for the relief of the Chicago sufferers, was \$90,000.

The Hon. William Cox, ex-Congressman and prominent Maine, died at New York, on Wednesday last.

Right children were taken from the orphan asylum in Brooklyn, on Friday, to the small pox hospital.

The rate of discount of the Bank of England has been reduced one-half per cent, and is now 3 per cent.

The New York doctors are taking measures to secure legislative enactments against quackery and abortion.

The New York Chamber of Commerce have discontinued giving aid to persons who have gone there from Chicago, and claim to be destitute.

The bill repealing woman suffrage in Wyoming Territory, after passing the House, failed to pass the Senate (the upper House), over the Governor's veto.

The British vessels that rescued the crews of the whaling vessels recently broken up in the ice will be paid \$5,000 by the government from a fund for that purpose.

John Ware was hung in Philadelphia on Friday, for the murder of his father. He confessed the crime, and gave a full and true account of his father's death.

The St. Petersburg papers express great satisfaction at the reception of the Grand Duke Alexis, while the German papers ridicule the reception.

A private letter from San Domingo says that the two years' lease of the Bay of San Juan, having expired, the United States flag has been taken down.

Horace Greeley has expressed the opinion that not less than six millions of votes will be thrown in the Presidential contest next year. Considerable doubt is thrown upon this estimate.

Every news-dealer in Syracuse, N. Y., has been indicted by the grand jury, and were summoned to appear at the trial on Monday next.

A special to the New York Times states that Vice President Colfax has informed prominent Republicans that he cannot withdraw his refusal to be considered a candidate for re-election.

English merchants, when the illness of the Prince of Wales was alarming, bought the entire stock of black gloves, black artificial flowers, dry goods and jet ornaments, and for all these goods, they were paid for by the British Government.

The joint resolution passed by the House for the survey of the British-American boundary, from the Lake of Woods to the Rocky Mountains, appropriates \$100,000 for the purpose. The distance is about 650 miles.

C. H. Hiss, formerly business manager of Crosby Opera House, who attempted suicide by shooting, died on Wednesday night last week from his wounds.

A very interesting discovery has just been made at All Saints College, Oxford. In taking down a beautiful painted ceiling in a chapel of the college, five ancient paintings were discovered attached to the roof, which have never been seen before.

The office of Register in New York is worth \$740,000 a year. This is a mere bagatelle in comparison with some of the perquisites of Tammany but it is proposed to make it a salaried office worth \$20,000.

A deputy sheriff on Thursday, seized the New York Printing Company's establishment, and New York Manufacturing Stationer's office, both of which are in the city of New York.

The construction of the Rio Grande, the company's proposed route for the Rio Grande, is the subject of a bill introduced in the Senate.

Panama papers state that the excitement on the isthmus relative to raising currency, the fabulous price of \$100 per hundred pounds being realized there, it sells in New York for \$12 per single pound.

Mr. Garvey, wife of the Tammany plasterer, has arrived in New York from Switzerland, and desires to compromise on the

